



Minutes City Council Issue Review Session October 30, 2003

Thursday, October 30, 2003, 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Neil Giuliano
Vice Mayor Barbara Carter
Councilmember P. Ben Arredondo
Councilmember Dennis Cahill
Councilmember Len Copple
Councilmember Pamela Goronkin
Councilmember Mark Mitchell

Mayor Giuliano called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Call to the Audience - No one came forward to speak.

Communities in Schools – “Communities for Kids” Report/Action Plan

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND - available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION - Presenters: TCC Executive Director Kate Hanley; CIS Director Lynn Stonefeld; Assistant Superintendent Deb Gomez, Tempe Elementary School District

Kate Hanley summarized the study which has been favorably received by funding agencies. The agencies have decided to fund a position to implement the recommendations. She introduced Elisette Cabello, the new staff person for this program.

Deb Gomez narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the program.

- Tempe: A Community for Kids
- Facts on Tempe's Children

Lynette Stonefeld explained the goals of the program: community partnership and long-term investment.

Ms. Hanley stated that this report was presented to the Neighborhood Enhancement/and People Improvement Program Committee and noted it would also be a good fit for the Community Schools/Partnerships Committee.

NO CONSENSUS – DISCUSSION ONLY

Waste Code Revisions

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND - available in City Clerk's Office.

No discussion/presentation.

CONSENSUS - Approved as presented.

Follow-up Responsibility: Oliver Ncube

Update of Eminent Domain/Condemnation Proceedings re: Tempe Projects

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND

At the October 30, 2003 Issue Review Session, staff would like to update the Council regarding the status of current eminent domain proceedings and the work that has been done to date on these proceedings. In addition, staff would like to discuss with the Council the use of eminent domain as it relates to the future of several Tempe projects including the Marketplace development, Newberry Terrace, and light rail property acquisitions.

DISCUSSION - Presenters: City Attorney Marlene Pontrelli; Principal Planner Neil Calfee

Marlene Pontrelli provided an update of recent court cases and the resulting effects on current Tempe projects. She showed examples of the downtown projects accomplished with eminent domain. She outlined the City's approach to eminent domain and the benefits to property owners. Most of what the City does regarding eminent domain settles favorably and very few cases end up in lawsuits. She outlined current actions:

- Artisan Court - This case is pending involving three property owners. Discussions were held with the owners about the value, no agreement was reached, a condemnation action was filed, and settlement negotiations have continued. A hearing has not yet been held. At this point, staff recommends dismissing condemnation action against all three property owners and let them stay where they are.
- The light rail property acquisition cases are typical types of public uses. Staff is not yet ready to bring that resolution to Council because they have been in the process of negotiating with the landowners.
- Regarding the Marketplace property at the 101/202, the property is environmentally-challenged and requires extreme remediation. We are fortunate to be receiving federal help to remediate that area. Condemnation will be necessary to assemble all of the property and attain the necessary environmental assessments.

Neil Calfee showed overheads of properties in the Marketplace area, described the issues with the area and the status of appraisals and negotiations.

There was discussion regarding:

- Artisan Court development being built without those three homeowner properties

- History of properties, formerly County island
- Health and safety needs and public use
- Fires in the brownfield/contaminated areas

NO CONSENSUS – DISCUSSION ONLY

Economic Development Marketing Kit

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND - The Economic Development Department recently completed a new, 60-page marketing kit to provide information about the City to potential businesses, sponsors and event promoters. Staff would like to give a progress report to the Council regarding the Economic Development Department's efforts to market the City.

DISCUSSION - Presenters: Rio Salado Marketing Coordinator Kris Baxter; Assistant Economic Development Manager Sheri Wakefield-Saenz; Retail Specialist Tamera Norwood

Kris Baxter summarized the new marketing kits. The kit can be tailored to target different companies' needs.

There was discussion regarding:

- The website outlines everything a company would need to know to do business in Tempe. The address is www.tempe.gov/business and it is updated weekly.
- Flexibility of kits
- The importance of seeking small businesses as much as large businesses
- Showcasing the community, redevelopment/economic development successes

NO CONSENSUS – DISCUSSION ONLY

Consent/Non-Consent Agenda Items - No agenda items were discussed.

Mayor's Announcements – None.

Manager's Announcements - Will Manley and Police Chief Ralph Tranter talked about the Monday Night Football game that was moved to ASU at the last minute from San Diego because of the large brushfires there. Police and Public Works staff did a fantastic job getting this together so quickly without any advance warning.

MEETING ADJOURNED 6:40 p.m.